

2020 Opportunity Funds Program (OFP) Graduate Application Form

Name of Applicant: _____

Many students in South Africa lack only financial resources and access to information to better their educational futures. The United States Mission to South Africa seeks to identify highly academically qualified and motivated, low-income, university students in South Africa to join the EducationUSA Opportunity Funds Program (OFP).

OFP's mission is to assist highly-talented and determined, economically-disadvantaged students to negotiate and finance the admissions process for colleges and universities in the United States to produce highly-skilled and widely-educated leaders to build tomorrow's South Africa.

OFP works closely with students through regularly scheduled webinars and individual sessions to assist them throughout the application process to secure admission and scholarships for universities in the United States. OFP finances all costs of the application process, including registration fees for required standardized examinations and provides free membership to the US Educational Advising Centers for its participants. OFP expects a sincere commitment of students to give back their energy and time to the program and their communities and to be the best they can be.

Applicants are welcome from all over South Africa looking to pursue a Master's or PhD degree in the United States. However, students must have access to the internet on a bi-weekly basis during the program for full participation. Participants will work with our EducationUSA Advisors from July 2020 – August 2021 to try to secure places and financial assistance to begin study in the U.S. in August 2021.

Note: ENTRANCE INTO THIS PROGRAM IS NO GUARANTEE OF A SCHOLARSHIP OR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Strong academic record/ transcript
- Robust participation in work experience
- Involvement in leadership roles
- Excellent community service participation
- Financial Need
- Transcripts/Academic Record that shows an average of 75% or more
- Degree results (if available)

REQUIREMENTS:

- **Complete Application Form:** You can fill out the attached word document electronically and send it as an attachment to our email.
- Attach a **copy** of your Final year results.
- A copy of **your university transcript/Academic Record.**
- Write **two essays**, one from Group A and one from Group B, each of about 250– 300 words
- Submit a **detailed Curriculum Vitae**
- Send a scanned copy of any **supplementary certificates of achievement**

NOTE: Please send all documents to cpowell@educationusa.org as attachments with proper titles e.g. “Andile Dlamini Transcript”, “Andile Dlamini DEGREE” etc

- All documents must be sent by the Deadline: June 15, 2020

Please complete this application form fully, providing us with as much information as you can about yourself, your dreams and ambitions; your family background, and your academic and co-curricular activities. Please send all parts of our application together at one time to ensure that your application is complete and includes contact information for you. We cannot consider incomplete applications.

Because of the high volume of applications received, we can ONLY respond individually to those who are successfully selected to participate in the program.

2020 OFP Application Deadline: June 15, 2020

ESSAY QUESTIONS

Read directions carefully: It is essential to send completed applications and attachments together in one email. Please do not send original documents. Scanned copies of certificates are acceptable.

Group A – Choose one only

Colleges and universities in the United States want to get to know you as a person, both in and out of the classroom. Use this essay as an opportunity to let us get to know you, how you think, and what's important to you. As we want to get to know you as an individual and not look for the most dramatic tale, it is essential that all experiences related in these essays be a true and accurate depiction of your life.

A1. Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?

A2. Tell us about a significant situation where you were at the horns of an ethical dilemma. Describe the situation, the outcomes, and how it molded you into the person you are today.

A3. There is a Quaker saying: “*Let your life speak.*” Describe the environment in which you were raised—your family, home, neighborhood, or community and how it influenced the person you are today.

A4. “Applying to the US is not a 100m sprint; it is a marathon that requires tenacity.” Tell us about a situation in which you have consistently applied yourself despite setbacks.

Group B – Choose one only

Whether you are a science, commercial or arts student in secondary university, if you attend college or university in the US, you will be exposed to and will take a wide variety of subjects from the humanities, social sciences, and pure sciences. With this liberal arts educational philosophy in mind, please answer one of the following questions to demonstrate your intellectual strengths.

B1. “*There is no place for secrets in modern society.*” Using evidence from your studies, your knowledge of current and past affairs, and your experiences in South Africa, write a paper agreeing or disagreeing with this statement.

B2. America is often termed ‘a melting pot’ and American society is often termed to be one of diversity. How would you define diversity and what is its role in our global society? What are the challenges that come with diversity?

B3. South African Universities are often on strike. What do you think are the best ways to address the problems facing South Africa’s current educational system?

B4. Rerhceseras say it’s siltl plisbsoe to raed txet wth only the frist and lsat lteres in palce. This is beaucse the hamun mnid can frnid oderr in dorsdier. Give us your best example of finding order in disorder. (For your reader’s sake, please use full sentences with conventional spelling).

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Personal Information:

1. Full name (first name(s) followed by family name):
2. What name do you prefer to be called?
3. Address where you reside when not at university:
4. Contact telephone(s) (**required**):
5. Email address, (**required**):
6. Date of Birth (Month, Day, & Year):
____/____/____
7. Gender:
8. Mother's current occupation and workplace, if living (Be specific, even if self-employed):
9. Father's current occupation and workplace, if living (Be specific, even if self-employed):
10. If parents are deceased, state name, relationship to you, occupation/workplace of your legal guardian:
11. The number of direct siblings, their ages, and for each one, state whether or not they are in university, which university and in what grade or form or level.:
12. The number of other dependent people currently living with and supported by your family and their relationships to you:
13. How much was your school fees in University (inclusive of housing) for Final school year:
14. Who paid your university fees?

15. If your fees are paid by a relative other than your parents, how many other children's fees are paid for by this same person? Do you live with this relative?

16. Have you or your siblings ever missed a **significant** part of a school term(s) because of finances or strike(s)? IF so, please explain.

17. Do you have regular access to the internet either by personal use or public use (i.e. Internet Café, Library, etc.):

18. What else should we know about your economic and personal background, your family, and your financial situation? Feel free to use an extra page if this space is too small so we can truly understand your situation.

Academic and University Information:

19. University Name and Mailing Address:

20. Dean of Faculty or HOD's Name, cell number and email address

21. List all extra-curricular clubs, sports, and activities that you participate in or have participated in the university and your community and/or church in order of importance to you. **Circle the one** to which you devote the most time and energy.

22. Please describe which one of these activities has the most meaning for you and why.

23. What, if any, is the most important academic prize or honor you have been awarded?

24. Do you hold any leadership positions at university? Please list them here and in which forms you held these positions (i.e. SRC official, President/Secretary of a Club, Captain of a team, etc). Circle the most important leadership position you held.

23. What course are you studying?

24. List below all institutions you have attended and which levels you did at each university

Institution/School	Location	Levels	Reason for leaving

Please Provide The Details Of Your Recommender- Must Be A Lecturer/Professor/ HOD/ Dean Of Faculty Who Can Attest To Your Character, Talent, And Skills.

Name:

Title/Role:

University/Organization:

Contact Email: Contact Telephone Number:

How long have you known this recommender?

Short Answer Questions:

Feel free to use additional paper if the space is insufficient. We want to get to know you well through these questions so take time to answer them honestly and fully.

25. What do you intend to further your study in? What is/are your planned career(s) and why? How did you develop your interest in the chosen field(s) of study and career path(s)? What level of higher education do you plan to attain?

26. **Outside of your planned career and study path**, what are your other academic or other passions? What skills do you hope to master or what do you simply have a burning desire to know more about?

27. OF is more of a family than merely access to universities that could offer you a scholarship. In what ways will you contribute to the OF family?

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The application and supporting documents must be completed and submitted electronically to
cpowell@educationusa.org